

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172689

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 MC-02 DODE-00 EB-07 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 /028 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:RWAHERNE:BH

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PM/MC:MR.WALSH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172689

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BA

SUBJECT: EXPORT LICENSE FOR SUBMACHINE GUN SILENCERS

REF: MANAMA 771 (NOTAL)

1. YOU SHOULD ADVISE GOB THAT WE WOULD DENY EXPORT LICENSE FOR SUPPRESSORS, OR SILENCERS, DESIGNED FOR USE WITH MAC M-11 SUBMACHINE GUN. THE COMBINATION OF THE M-11 GUN AND THE SILENCER CONSTITUTES A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TERRORIST AND/OR ASSASSINATION WEAPON. ITS DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS - LIGHT WEIGHT, COMPACT-SIZE, SHORT RANGE, RAPID RATE OF FIRE, AND EASE OF CONCEALMENT - APPEAR TO BE DIRECTED AT THE SOLE OBJECTIVE OF FACILITATING SURREPTITIOUS USE, AND DECEPTION AND EVASION BY THE USER. WE FAIL TO SEE HOW THESE CHARACTERISTICS MIGHT MEET ESSENTIAL NEEDS OF BDF. IN DISCUSSING OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO LICENSE EXPORT OF THESE
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PAGE 02 STATE 172689

SILENCERS, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO GOB OUR INTEREST IN

ASSISTING IT WITH LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS, BUT POINT OUT THAT THERE EXISTS LONGSTANDING U.S. POLICY AGAINST EXPORT OF TERROR WEAPONS (NAPALM AND FLAMETHROWERS ARE OTHER EXAMPLES OF SUCH WEAPONS).

2. YOU MAY FURTHER ADVISE GOB THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM MILITARY ARMAMENT CORP. FOR AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR 10 M-11 SUBMACHINE GUNS ADAPTED SO AS NOT TO PERMIT USE WITH A SILENCER OR SUPPRESSOR. WE WILL APPROVE ISSUANCE OF THAT LICENSE.

3. FYI, (AND FOR GOB'S CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND IF YOU DEEM IT APPROPRIATE): WE HAVE DENIED EXPORT OF THE SILENCER-EQUIPPED M-11 TO ANOTHER GULF STATE (FYI ONLY: OMAN) RECENTLY, ON THE SAME GROUNDS, AND WOULD DO SO WITH OTHERS IF REQUESTS WERE MADE. MILITARY ARMAMENT CORP. HAS APPARENTLY BEEN MAKING DETERMINED SALES EFFORT FOR MAC M-11 IN THE GULF RECENTLY; HOWEVER BEGUILING ITS PRESENTATION OF THE VIRTUES OF THE WEAPON, ITS CHARACTERISTICS ARE AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, AND WE REMAIN UNCONVINCED THAT IT IS A NECESSARY ITEM FOR LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE NEEDS. END FYI.
KISSINGER

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